

those that fell, and at least with the ancestral inheritance of language, of culture. You have pointed out the greatest instance of this in Italy. A totally different and much smaller example is furnished by modern Switzerland.

The intrusion of an alien race into another civilization, its growth and supremacy and dying away, is of course curiously paralleled by what we see in the animal world, and the parallel is complete in at least one point—that is, in the fact that in such case the causes may be shrouded in absolute darkness. South America, until the middle of the Tertiary period, had a mammalian fauna almost as unique as that of Australia, composed chiefly of small marsupials, and of what we loosely call edentates, also of small size. Then there occurred physical union with the great arctogeal continent by the Isthmus of Panama.

There followed an inrush of northern fauna and an extraordinarily powerful and abundant faunal life sprang up. The dominant forms were those of the intruders—saber-tooth tigers, bear, deer, elephants, swine, camels, tapirs, horses, all of great abundance in species, and many of the species of giant size. Under the pressure most of the old forms disappeared; but some of the so-called edentates developed into ground sloths and giant armadillos as large as elephants; and some of these forms when thus developed proved not only able to hold their own in South America, but gradually in their turn made their way north across the Isthmus and spread into North America in the teeth of

the competition of the descendants of the
forms that had
anciently overrun South America. Thus there
grew up in
South America a faunal life as gigantic, as
fierce, as varied,
as that of Central Africa at this moment, and
on the whole
more like that of Central Africa than like the
life of South
America to-day, and infinitely more so than
like the old
eocene life of South America. Then there
came a change,
we know not why. In North America the
glacial period
may have had much to do with it, but surely
this can not
have been true of South America; yet all of
these huge
formidable creatures died out, alike the
monsters of alien